

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

The office action of December 13, 2006 acted upon claims 1-6 and 8-38. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18-22, 24-28, 30-31, and 33-38 were rejected under 35 USC, section 103(a). Claim 1 was also rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 12, 17, 23, 29 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this response, claims 1, 13, 17-19, 21 and 25-27 have been amended without prejudice, and new claims 40-41 have been presented in the belief that they recite allowable subject matter.

§ 103 Rejections and Interview Summary

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18-22, 24-28, 30-31, and 33-38 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0007446 to Stark (Stark '446) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,662 to Fuh et al. (Fuh '662). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In an interview conducted with Examiner Fleurantin on 11 April 2006, a number of issues were touched upon, including the interpretation of terms used in the claims, and explicitly defined in the text of the instant Specification. One primary example of such a term is "coded entry", which is defined in the instant Specification as follows:

As used herein in the specification and in the claims section that follows, the terms "coded key entry", "coded entry" and the like refer to a key entry resulting from a transformation of at least one ("original") key entry, wherein the coded entry is compact with respect to the at least one original key entry.

(see [0339] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)

Another example of such a term is "deterministic transformation", which is defined in the instant Specification as follows:

As used herein in the specification and in the claims section that follows, the term "deterministic transformation" refers to a transformation of at least one key entry to a coded key entry, in which the size of the coded entry depends on the size of the at least one key entry.

(see [0340] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)

In response, the Examiner articulated that he had interpreted the term "coded entry" in the broadest possible sense, and that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 21 under § 103(a) was made without considering the term "coded entry" to be limited according to the above-provided definition.

Similarly, the terms "pre-determined transformation", "deterministic search", "pre-determined search" and "deterministic transformation" were interpreted by the Examiner in the broadest possible sense, hence, the rejection under § 103(a) of independent claims 1 and 21, and all claims depending therefrom, was made without considering the claims to be limited according to the definitions provided in the

Specification (see definitions in paragraphs [338] to [352] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.).

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend independent claims 1 and 21 in order to clarify and emphasize the crucial distinctions between the method of the present invention and the combined art of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0007446 to Stark (Stark '446) and Fuh'662 cited by the Examiner. Specifically, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to clarify that the limitation "coded entry" is to be construed according to the definition in the instant Specification and provided hereinabove.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Stark '446 nor Fuh '662 teach a coded entry having a reduced in length with respect to a length of the key entry from which the coded entry was transformed.

Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that the limitation "pre-determined transformation" is to be construed according to the definition in the instant Specification (see paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 53):

As used herein in the specification and in the claims section that follows, the term "pre-determined transformation" refers to a transformation of at least one key entry to a coded key entry, in which the function for performing the transformation is independent of the specific content of the particular key entries being transformed.

(see [0341] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)

In view of these explicit limitations, and in view of the discussion above in the context of the § 103(a) rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that base claims 1 and 21 are allowable. Consequently, Applicant further submits that the claims depending from base claims 1 and 21 are allowable in their present form.

In addition, dependent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the limitation “deterministic transformation” is to be construed according to the definition in the instant Specification (see [0340] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.), i.e., that the length of the coded entry depends on the length of the key entry from which the coded entry was transformed.

In the above-referenced telephonic interview, Applicant further argued that Stark ‘446 and Fuh ‘662 are not properly combinable. Although, as the Examiner has written, Fuh claims that the transformation module “improves data integrity” [column 8, lines 36-40], Applicant respectfully articulated that the transformation module of Fuh ‘662 could not improve Stark’s data integrity. While Fuh’s claim of improved data integrity may be relevant with respect to systems containing “user-defined data” [Fuh ‘662 column 2, lines 20-25], it is manifest that Stark ‘446 has no problem of data integrity that Fuh’s teachings can solve.

Moreover, with the amendment of claims 1 and 21 to include the limitation of the explicit definition of “coded entry”, it is manifest that Stark ‘446 does not teach such coded entries. Consequently, Applicant submits, the rejection of the various dependent claims reciting further limitations relating to coded entries, search procedures for utilizing coded entries, etc. -- **based on the teachings of Stark ‘446** -- are not appropriate in view of the explicit definition of the term “coded entry”.

In the above-referenced telephonic interview, Applicant presented several features of the instant invention that appear to contain allowable subject matter.

These included:

- for key entries of any finite length, the length of each coded entry, after performing the transformation, is up to a closest integer larger than log base 2 of the length of the key entry from which the coded entry was transformed.
(see, inter alia, [0065], [0059] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)
- for key entries of any finite length, the length of each the respective coded entry, after performing the transformation, is substantially equal to a rounded up, closest integer of log base 2 of the length of the key entry from which the respective coded entry was transformed.
(see, inter alia, [0059] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)
- the length of the coded key entry depends solely on the length of the key entry from which the respective coded entry was transformed.
(see, inter alia, [0059] of 2005/0091443 to Hershkovich et al.)

Limitations based on these features are recited in amended claims 17-19 and 27 and in new claims 40-41. These significant features are not taught, nor fairly suggested, by the cited prior art. Moreover, Applicant has clearly demonstrated in the Specification the workings of the exemplary coding methods of the instant invention, and how such methods can be used in conjunction with the prior art of Stark '446. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner carefully consider any as yet uncovered prior art for proper combinability with Stark '446.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Claim 1 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 7,076,602.

Claim 1 has been amended, without prejudice, and the limitations of “coded entry” and “pre-determined transformation” are now more explicitly recited therein:

wherein a length, expressed as a number of bits, of said respective coded entry is reduced with respect to a length, expressed as a number of bits, of said key entry from which said respective coded entry was transformed, and wherein a function for performing said pre-determined transformation is substantially independent of specific content of each said key entry of said key entries.

Since amended claims 1 is patentably distinct from the claims cited by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

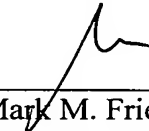
Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 12, 17, 23, 29 and 32 as being based on rejected base claims. The Examiner has noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In view of the discussion above in the context of the § 103(a) rejections, the Applicant submits that the base claims from which these claims now depend are allowable, making claims 12, 17, 23, 29 and 32 allowable in their present form.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 8-38, and 40-41 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark M. Friedman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,883

U.S. Telephone Number:
(301)9521011

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